

CAMPBELL COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

www.campbellkyconservation.org

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St. Anne Woods and Wetlands

What is the Conservation District? Kentucky Conservation Districts are Special Purpose Government Entities, organized under Kentucky Revised Statute 262. Conservation Districts are responsible for protecting our soil, water, and other natural resources. The Campbell County Conservation District (CCCD) was established in 1945 by a vote of the citizens of the county.

Mission Statement: The Campbell County Conservation District partners with citizens and private landowners as well as other organizations to promote the sustainability of the land, water, and other natural resources by encouraging the use of Best Management Practices. We do this by providing expertise, financial assistance, and hosting educational programs.

OUR SUPERVISORS

2024	2025
Richard Simon, Chairman	Richard Simon, Chairman
Susan Ortlieb-Turner, Vice-Chair	Susan Ortlieb-Turner, Vice-Chair (July-March)
Larry Schadler, Secretary/Treasurer	Kirsten Hill, Vice-Chair
C. Kevin McCormick	Larry Schadler, Secretary/Treasurer
Jason Kilmer (January-May)	C. Kevin McCormick (July-March)
Richard Carr	Richard Carr
Kirsten Hill	Chris Geiman (May-June)
	Amy Downton (May-June)

OUR STAFF

Patti Dischar, District Manager
Linda Grizzell, Administrative Assistant (July-March)
Tammy Webster, Conservation Assistant (January-June)

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Ian Young, Supervisory District Conservationist
Chris Rawson, Soil Conservationist

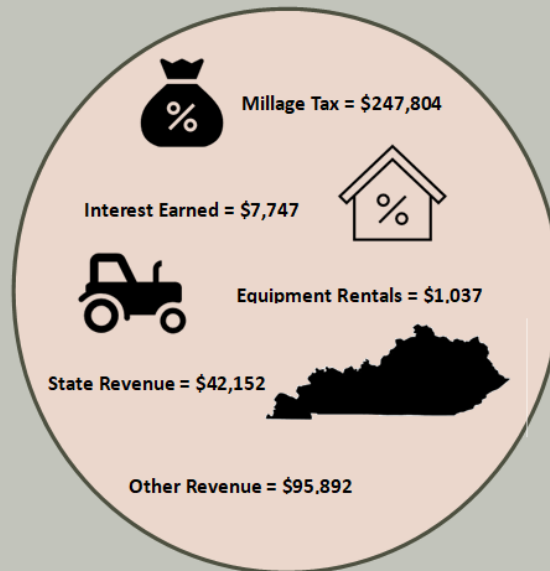
KENTUCKY DIVISION OF CONSERVATION

Kimberly Barton, Environmental Scientist
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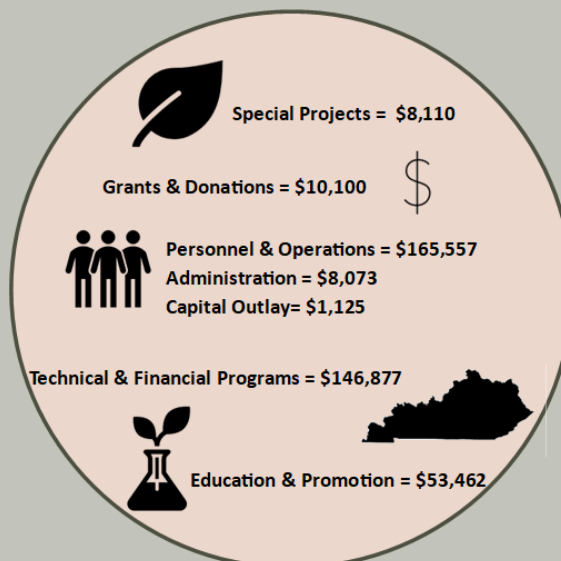
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service and Conservation Districts prohibit discrimination in all programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

REVENUES



EXPENDITURES



DISTRICT COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Committee members included the Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. Annual staff reviews were completed on time, memorandums of agreement were reviewed annually and edited as needed, and the entire board reviewed the 2024-25 Annual Plan of Work quarterly.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

This committee prepared the draft 2025-26 Annual Budget for the Board's approval, reviewed the 2024-25 Annual Budget quarterly, presented recommendations to the board, and monitored the receipt of compensating tax information from the Kentucky Department for Local Government. Invoices were approved, and the secretary/treasurer reviewed and signed the credit card statements, bank statements, and bank reconciliations. The committee also monitored financial reporting deadlines required by the Department for Local Government and met the deadlines for submission of the District in Good Standing Report for state direct aid calculations.

The district achieved a 100% rating and received bonus dollars as well as the calculated direct aid dollars. The district's revenue is provided through a county millage tax on real property and funding from the Kentucky Division of Conservation. Financial reports are available at the district office or can be viewed on the Kentucky Department for Local Government website under Special Purpose Government Entities.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The committee monitored bills in the House and/or Senate as related to the district or county landowners and presented recommendations to the Board.

Supervisors Rick Simon (Alice), Larry Schadler, J. Greg Davis, and staff members Patti Dischar, Linda Grizzell, and Tammy Webster attended the KACD Legislative Reception in January at the Elizabeth in Frankfort. Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Representatives Mike Clines and Mike Lehman were able to participate in this event and have valuable conversations. We shared the needs of Campbell County and brought awareness of the KACD legislative priorities to the forefront. Representative Mark Hart had a prior obligation.



FARMLAND WORK GROUP

This committee consists of all the board members and partnering organizations including the Campbell County Cattle Association, Campbell County Farm Bureau Federation, Campbell County Cooperative Extension Service, the Northern Kentucky Horse Network, and the Campbell Conservancy, Inc. Their priority is to carry out the elements as outlined in the Farmland Work Group Strategic Plan, developed in 2005 and updated through 2025.



Campbell County Backroads Farm Tour was held July 20, with 12 farms participating. Our partners at Campbell Media assisted us with videotaping each of our farm hosts, who provided information about their farm and all they do. The video was promoted on our website and social media platforms.

Christmas Farm Shop Hop was the third year for the Christmas Farm Shop Hop. Seven farm agribusinesses participated to showcase their farms and local vendors who do not have a storefront but sell their products at farmer markets and other local agribusinesses during the holiday season.



Cooperator Dinner on September 12, members of our agricultural and urban communities were honored as we provided dinner held at Campbell County Extension Services. The Young Farmer Award was presented to Will & Mary Kate Chowning, Cedar Hill Farms, Cooperator of the Year Award was presented to Daniel & Darlene Schalk and Family, and the Master Conservationist award was presented to Jim & Valerie Benton, 12 Mile Farm. Our Backroads Farm Tour hosts were recognized and presented with a monogrammed backpack cooler. The FFA Chapter was awarded a check for \$1,000.00 for their hard work during our Farm Expo & Farm Tour event. Our Campbell County Agricultural Development Council representatives, Gary Nelson and Cyndi Bezold, received certificates for representing the district on the council.

Our farm tour sponsors were recognized for their support of our farm tour events. We recognized all participants in our local cost shares: Conservation Tree Planting & Urban Forest Enhancements, Farm Dump Cleanup, Heavy Use Area, Cover Crop, Wastewater, Supplemental, Backyard Conservation, and the Tree Swap program.

HAWTHORNE & ST. ANNE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HSAA)

A joint advisory team for Hawthorne Crossing and St. Anne Woods and Wetlands, composed of members from the district, Conservancy, Fiscal Court, and county citizens, researches and discusses issues affecting the Heritage properties. The district owns two properties acquired through grants from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Board; the state holds conservation easements on them.



Hawthorne Crossing Conservation Area is adjacent to the Licking River. Hawthorne Crossing continues to be monitored and conserves the natural resources. The property is currently closed to the public. We continue to work on access to the property for educational activities, hiking, bird watching, and nature study. The Conservation District is now part of a regional initiative for the Licking River corridor to increase the recreational use of the river and gain more access points. This year, researcher Jim Lundberg conducted an Odonata Dragonfly survey, finding three Gomphid species not observed in

2023 but they were observed in 2024. This brings Hawthorne Crossings documented Gomphid species to 10. This is an excellent indicator of superior habitat at Hawthorne Crossing. Also, he observed an active bald eagle nesting near the river! In the spring, Northern Kentucky University History Professor Burke Miller began offering classes to provide a history survey of the property.

St. Anne Woods Upland Woods is located adjacent to the St. Anne Retreat Center. Seven bridges have been replaced and six benches were purchased with an education fund from the Sisters of Notre Dame to provide seating throughout the trails on the property. We are continuing invasive removal through a local contractor.

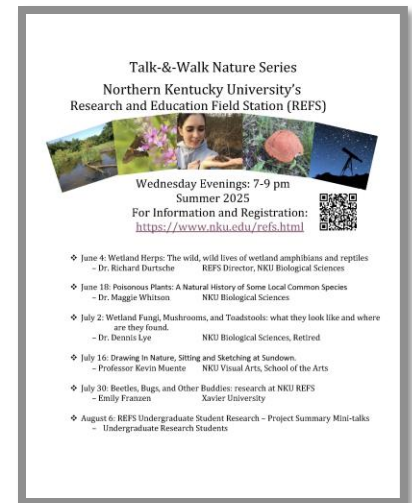


public during events.

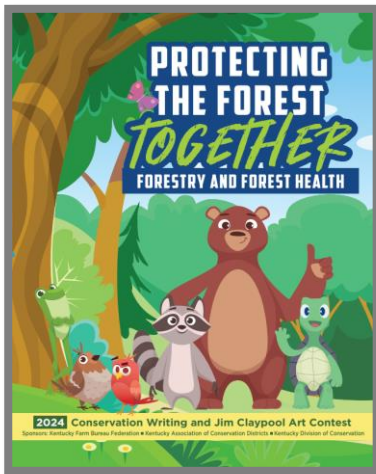
Northern Kentucky Stream and Wetland Research Program (NKSWRP) has been approved to complete restoration and preservation work in St. Anne Woods and Wetlands, including invasive species removal.



Northern Kentucky University (NKU) Research and Education Field Station (REFS) partners with the Conservation District. The field station is located next to the St. Anne Wetlands. Their focus is research, education, and community involvement. District Manager, Patti Dischar, is on the steering committee as a representative and liaison for the Conservation District. The summer talk-and-walk series continues to grow in participation each year.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE



Education Awards Dinner is held each year to honor the winners from the Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing Contests, scholarship recipients, and the education grant recipients. The topic for this year's art and writing contest was "Protecting the Forest Together!". Farm Bureau representatives Meg Crail and Jennifer Metcalf assisted our education committee in judging the entries. Depending on the ranking, the First Place County winners in the Jim Claypool Art and Conservation Writing Contests may receive a check ranging from \$25 to \$250 from the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation. All students and teachers received a certificate of achievement and a t-shirt. Students received Citations of Achievement from Senator Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Representatives Mike Clines, Mike Lehmann, and Mark Hart. All art and writing winners in grades 4, 5, and 6 had the opportunity to attend Camp Webb for free. The Campbell County Conservation District paid a registration fee of \$300 for each of our three art winners who attended camp!

Conservation Scholarship is awarded to three high school/college students each year. The \$1,500 scholarship is awarded to students who are enrolled in one of the following fields of study: natural resource conservation, forestry, soil science, ecology, wildlife science, agriculture, or biology with a focus on conservation.





Envirothon Teams Campbell County Conservation District registered six teams from Highlands High School to participate in the Envirothon Contest. This year's Envirothon team had 28 students participate! One team scored third overall in the state, and the same team took first place in the state for oral presentation on the special topic, alternative fuels!



Soil Stewardship Week was April 27-May 2. The district promoted Soil Stewardship



Week at the Fiscal Court's May meeting. Supervisor Kirt Hill and District Manager Patti Dischar presented the district's goals and accomplishments. We highlighted the impact of conservation practices in the county, including providing obligated technical/financial funds to citizens, supporting community education/outreach, offering free programs, and bridging urban and rural areas. We also shared what the Fiscal Court can do for the Conservation District: continue supporting the district through the Millage Tax, involving the conservation district on relevant issues, supporting our events and advocating for our programs, and continuing farm preservation to help farmers in Campbell County.

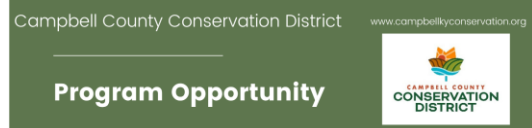
LAND USE COMMITTEE

Agricultural Districts - The district comprises a total of 27 districts, covering 21,189.37 acres.

The Campbell Conservancy and the District approved an agreement in August 2006 through which the Conservation District provides technical services to the Conservancy for a nominal fee. The district also provides space for meetings, storage of records, and receives mail and phone calls for support of the Campbell Conservancy, Inc.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

The Public Relations Committee's members will strive to improve citizens' quality of life by informing them of programs, initiatives, resources, and information, and inspire them to take action to utilize and apply to their land, work, and lifestyle by using best management practices. Our focus is to promote all district programs and events via the district's website, by increasing our presence on social media, or through other applicable means as recommended by the committee. The District Manager maintains the district's social media, including our Facebook page (Campbell County Conservation District, Kentucky, CCCD), Instagram, e-newsletter, and the district's website (www.campbellkyconservation.org). You can also find the link to our YouTube channel where you can see videos from our Right to Farm forums, our Backroads Farm Tours, EXPOs, and our annual awards dinners. These videos are provided through services by Campbell County Media.



Program Opportunity



What's Happening -The Campbell County Conservation District places a two-page article in the spring and fall issues of What's Happening. The district covers this cost \$7,540 with district funds to educate the community of all district opportunities. This publication reaches every household in Campbell County.

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Conservation Council (OKI-RCC) Supervisors, Rick Simon (Alice) and Larry Schadler, and staff members Linda Grizzell, Patti Dischar, and Tammy Webster attended the annual business meeting held at the OKI RCC downtown Cincinnati office. The annual tour was held in Hamilton County in September. Supervisors Rick



Simon (Alice), Chris Geiman, Rick Carr, and Larry Schadler, and staff members Linda Grizzell and Patti Dischar attended.

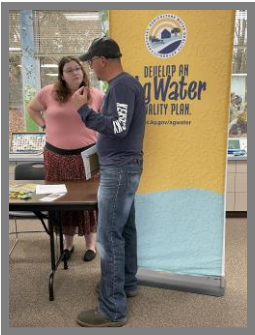
We visited seven interesting locations of landfills, farms, and schools. This opportunity gives us the chance to collaborate with other counties so we can bring knowledge and opportunities back to Campbell County. We even met Buddy LaRosa while eating lunch!



Fall & Spring EXPOs are an opportunity for the community to share their needs and for the district to work on fill those needs. The district partners with Campbell County Extension to present Campbell County EXPOs!

Fall- The New Landowner EXPO is an open house forum at the Campbell County Environmental Education Center. This gives the landowners the chance to talk to our partners about all the opportunities and give assistance to their needs in Campbell County.

Spring- The Campbell County Farm & Livestock EXPO was at the Alexandria Fair Grounds and gave our citizens the opportunity to learn about the Mobile Dairy Classroom, herding dog demonstration, live equipment auction, and more!



Alexandria Fair & Horse Show/Parade - The district participated in the Alexandria Fair & Horse Show by being a sponsor of the Fair, and our banner is displayed on the fair's grandstand! The district entered the parade, but it was canceled due to bad weather. Kaitlyn Reis was awarded \$100.00 for the 4-H Forestry Award, and \$6618 was awarded to the 4-H/FFA Livestock Club for district purchases of their animal projects.



KACD Area 5 Spring Meeting was held at the Grant County Cooperative Extension Office. Supervisors Rick Simon (Alice), Larry Schadler, and staff members Patti Dischar and Tammy Webster attended.



KACD Convention was held at the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport, Louisville in July. Supervisors Rick Simon, Kevin McCormick, and Rick Carr; Larry Schadler, and staff members Linda Grizzell, Patti Dischar, and Tammy Webster attended. We had representation at Ky Derby Museum & Churchill Downs Race Track, a Leadership breakfast, KACDE Banquet, a live auction, and a closing banquet on Tuesday evening. The district supported the auction with a donation. Patti Dischar presented the Farm & Livestock Expo event to share knowledge and education with the participants. The Campbell County Conservation District was awarded the Area 5 Outstanding District Award. Some of our supervisors walked away with some nice auction items.



Citizen's Academy was held in October, and Supervisor Kirt Hill presented education and knowledge to the participants.

TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

This committee's primary responsibilities include helping landowners comply with the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act and promoting opportunities in state and federal cost-share programs. The district aids landowners in developing agricultural water quality plans.

Environmental Grants provided by the Kentucky Division of Conservation provided \$5,000 in financial assistance to landowners for fallen animal removal.

Dead Farm Animal Disposal Program assists landowners with the proper disposal of fallen livestock. This fiscal year, eighty-two producers participated, with \$18,550 paid to licensed haulers by district funds.

Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share assisted two landowners who were awarded a total of \$22,310.73 for state cost share. Three applications were approved for funding.



County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP) - The district has two representatives on the County Agricultural Development Council who may serve up to two two-year terms. They are Cyndi Bezold and Gary Nelson. The Council is responsible for setting guidelines for KY Agricultural Development Fund programs in Campbell County; the district administers the County Agriculture Investment Program (CAIP) program. This program is offered every year now to Campbell County producers. In June, the district received \$30,188 to administer the 2024 program. Seventeen landowners were awarded a total of \$30,183.

Tree Planting and Urban Forest Enhancement District Grants awarded the City of Fort Thomas and the City of Alexandria a total of \$1,970 matching grants for Tree Planting and Community Beautification since 1993 to help cities and communities establish programs or develop projects to protect and conserve our natural resources. The project must be accomplished on lands located in Campbell County that are owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the city, county, state, or federal government and must include funding or in-kind contributions in an amount equal to the grant request.



Local cost shares:

Backyard Conservation Local Cost-Share Program is an incentive program intended to assist landowners with costs while implementing conservation practices that benefit soil and water quality and wildlife habitat. Sixty-nine applications were approved this fiscal year, and fourteen landowners were awarded a total of \$6,796.70. Applications are limited to one per household/farm per fiscal year.



Cover Crop Local Cost Share is to assist landowners and the district supplies funds for this program. One application was approved, and one landowner was awarded \$1,000.00 this fiscal year.



Farm Dump Removal Local Cost Share assists landowners in cleaning up farm dumps. The district had six approved applications totaling \$49,000 this fiscal year, funded through a 75/25 local cost share.

Supplemental Agriculture Local Cost Share is a 75/25 local cost share with 75% of the project cost being reimbursed up to \$2,500.00. This is to assist landowners who are not eligible for traditional cost-share programs to install practices for the control of sediment and erosion. Fourteen applications were approved this fiscal year, and two landowners were awarded a total of \$4,575.48.



Heavy Use Area Local Cost Share - This is a 75/25 cost share with 75% of the project cost being reimbursed up to \$2,500.00. Ten applications were approved this fiscal year, and five landowners were awarded a total of \$12,096.93.00. Applications are limited to one per household/farm per fiscal year.



Tree Swap Program - Through a partnership with a local landscaper, the district offered a program to help control the spread of invasive trees in Campbell County by giving citizens the opportunity to swap up to two invasive trees from their yard with up to two non-invasive native hardwood trees. Fifteen applicants participated and received two trees each from the tree swap program. At the spring EXPO, a drawing was held for a chance to win more trees, and two lucky citizens were winners!



Wastewater Disposal - In recent years, Campbell County has seen increases in population, development, and economic growth. Unfortunately, the County has also seen increases in water pollution. This Wastewater Disposal cost-share program is a financial incentive for landowners to dispose of effluent properly by providing funds for code-compliant plumbing installation/modifications of both supply and drain/vent pipes to carry wastewater into existing sewer/septic systems. Leach line repair will also be considered. A project may be funded up to \$2,500 and applicants must provide at least 25% of the total cost of the project. Campbell County residents are eligible to receive financial assistance only once per location address. No applications were received for consideration this fiscal year.



Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Ian Young, NRCS Supervisory District Conservationist, and additional staff provide Technical Assistance through the Kentucky Division of Conservation.

RENTAL EQUIPMENT

Through a memorandum of agreement, Southern States houses and maintains the district's rental equipment: BBI Cricket 3-ton Lime Spreader, Kasco Seeder, and Land Pride Seeder.



OTHER EVENTS

Supervisor Rick Carr represents the district on the Campbell County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team.

Supervisor Rick Simon attended the NRCS Focus Group in July, and Rick Simon and staff member Patti Dischar attended in June.

The district held a leadership training session for the board supervisors in January. Jason Farkas, Northern Kentucky University Organizational Leadership Program, facilitated the training.

Campbell County Planning and Zoning is working with the county on updating the county's Comprehensive Plan. The board held roundtable discussions with other county farming entities, as well as additional district board meetings to begin the process. District Manager, Patti Dischar, will be representing the district at the Comprehensive Plan Meetings.

Supervisor Kirt Hill represents the district on Green Umbrella's Greenspace Alliance Committee.

In May, supervisor Rick Simon (Alice) attended the City of Silver Grove's Arboretum kickoff ceremony.

In April, supervisors Rick Simon (Alice), Susan Ortlieb-Turner, Jason Kilmer, and staff members Patti Dischar and Linda Grizzell attended an Ohio River Way Viewing held at the Boone County Enrichment Center in Burlington. The speakers were from Ohio River Way and Kentucky Waterways Alliance.



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